

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (previously presented): A method for reducing or treating inflammation arising from normal dose photodynamic therapy (PDT), which method comprises

a) exposing a tissue area containing a photosensitizing agent in a subject to normal dose PDT treatment which results in inflammation in said tissue area; and

b) exposing a tissue area that overlaps with the tissue area that has been treated with normal dose PDT treatment, to low dose light having a wavelength absorbed by the photosensitizing agent used in said normal dose PDT treatment for a time sufficient to reduce or treat inflammation arising from said normal dose PDT treatment;

wherein step b) immediately follows step a); and

wherein the area exposed to the low dose light in step b) is concentric with but larger than the area exposed to the normal dose PDT treatment in step a).

2. (original): The method of claim 1 wherein said subject is human.

3. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the tissue area is an ocular tissue.

4. (original): The method of claim 3, wherein the ocular tissue contains unwanted neovasculature.

5. (original): The method of claim 4, wherein the unwanted neovasculature is choroidal neovasculature.

6. (original): The method of claim 2, wherein the subject has been diagnosed or is afflicted with age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

7. (previously presented): The method of claim 2, wherein the subject has been diagnosed or is afflicted with a condition selected from macular degeneration, ocular histoplasmosis syndrome, pathologic myopia, diabetic macular edema, diabetic retinopathy, neovascular glaucoma, corneal neovascularization and inflammatory diseases.

8. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the photosensitizing agent is selected from a texaphyrin, a chlorin, a phthalocyanine, a purpurin, a bacteriochlorin, a porphyrin, a porphyrin derivative, a green porphyrin, a phthalocyanine and 5-aminolevulinic acid (ALA).

9. (original): The method of claim 8, wherein the photosensitizing agent is a monohydrobenzoporphyrin compound.

10. (original): The method of claim 9, wherein the photosensitizing agent is BPD-MA or verteporfin.

11. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the photosensitizing agent is applied topically to the subject.

12. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the photosensitizing agent is administered systemically to the subject.

13. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the tissue area is exposed to the low dose light immediately after the subject has been treated with normal dose PDT treatment.

14. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the area exposed to the low dose light envelops the area previously treated with normal dose PDT.

15. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the low dose light is a dosage from about 1 J/cm² to about 10 J/cm².

16. (original): The method of claim 15, wherein the dosage of the low dose light is about 15 J/cm².

17. (previously presented): A method for reducing or treating inflammation arising from normal dose photodynamic therapy (PDT), which method comprises

a) exposing a tissue area containing a photosensitizing agent in a subject to normal dose PDT treatment which results in inflammation in an area adjacent to said tissue area; and

b) exposing a tissue area adjacent to the tissue area that has been treated with normal dose PDT treatment, to low dose light having a wavelength absorbed by the photosensitizing agent used in said normal dose PDT treatment for a time sufficient to reduce or treat inflammation arising from said normal dose PDT treatment;

wherein step b) immediately follows step a); and

wherein the area exposed to the low dose light in step b) is concentric with the tissue area exposed to the normal dose PDT treatment in step a).

18. (canceled)

19. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the low dose light irradiation lasts about 5 seconds.

20. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the wavelength of the low dose light is from about 350 nm to about 800 nm.

21. (original): The method of claim 20, wherein the wavelength of the low dose light is about 689 nm.

22. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the inflammation is monitored by photography or immunohistochemistry.

23. (original): The method of claim 22, wherein the photography is fundus photography.

24. (original): The method of claim 23, wherein the tissue area is an ocular tissue and an inflammation marker is used to monitor the inflammation by fundus photography, wherein said inflammation marker is selected from retinal whitening, localized retinal elevation, depigmented

treatment area with hyperpigmentation, early hypofluorescence in the treatment area, hyperfluorescence at the border, late pooling, central hypofluorescence and blocked fluorescence and window defects.

25. (original): The method of claim 24, wherein the tissue area is an ocular tissue and an inflammation marker is used to monitor the inflammation by immunohistochemistry, wherein said inflammation marker is selected from CD4, CD8, CD31, macrophage and MHC II.

26. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the inflammation is monitored by scanning laser ophthalmoscopy (SLO) or optical coherence tomography (OTC).

27. (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising a step of administering an immunosuppressive agent to the subject before the tissue area is exposed to low dose light.

28. (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising a step of administering an antiangiogenic or a neuroprotective agent to the subject before the tissue area is exposed to low dose light.

29. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the photosensitizing agent is a BPD B-ring derivative.

30. (original): The method of claim 29, wherein the BPD B-ring derivative is a hydrophilic or a lipophilic BPD B-ring analog.

31. (previously presented): A method of treating unwanted neovasculture of an eye, which method comprises:

a) administering to a subject in need of treatment for unwanted neovasculture an amount of photosensitizer sufficient to permit an effective amount to localize in said neovasculture;

b) permitting sufficient time to elapse to allow an effective amount of said photosensitizer to localize in said neovasculture;

c) providing a first dosage of irradiation to a treatment area of the subject's eye containing said neovasculture with light having a wavelength that is absorbed by said photosensitizer for a sufficient time and at a sufficient intensity to occlude said neovasculture, wherein said first dosage of irradiation results in inflammation in said treatment area; and

d) providing a second and lower dosage of irradiation to said treatment area and an additional area adjacent to said treatment area with light having a wavelength absorbed by the photosensitizer for sufficient time to reduce the effects of inflammation arising from said first dosage of irradiation;

wherein step d) immediately follows step c); and

wherein the area exposed to the lower dosage of irradiation in step d) is concentric with but larger than the area exposed to the first dosage of irradiation in step c).

32. (previously presented): The method of claim 31, wherein the unwanted neovasculture is in the choroid of the subject's eye, and wherein the subject has been diagnosed or is afflicted with AMD, pathologic myopia, or ocular histoplasmosis.

33. (previously presented): The method of claim 17, wherein the tissue area in step b) comprises the tissue area exposed in step a).

34-36. (canceled)

37. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the tissue area in step a) is treated for neovasculture.

38. (previously presented): The method of claim 17, wherein the tissue area in step a) is treated for neovasculture.

39-41. (canceled)